

## 2003 Hall of Fame Inductee

### Dr. George W. Sledge

George W. Sledge was born and raised on a farm in Nashville, North Carolina. He received his Bachelor's Degree from North Carolina State University in 1949 and his Masters of Agricultural Education in 1951.

While at NC State, he was elected to a number of honorary and professional fraternities including Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, and Kappa Phi Kappa. He was President of the North Carolina Future Farmers of America from 1946 to 1947. He received both an Honorary American Farmer Degree from the National FFA Association and the American Farmer Degree.

George earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education from Michigan State University in 1954 and then accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin. A dedicated educator, George was appointed Assistant Dean of the UW-Madison College of Agriculture in 1964. He was appointed Associate Dean and Director for Academic Affairs at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the UW-Madison in 1980. George was also involved extensively in international agricultural education. This work took him to Nigeria, Zambia, Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago, the U.K., and mainland China.

The welfare of his students was his primary concern, and George worked diligently to revitalize the CAL's agricultural curriculum and develop scholarship opportunities. At the time of his retirement as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Affairs for CALS, Dr. Sledge had certified more than 80 percent of the undergraduate degrees granted during the CAL's entire history—nearly 14,000 students in all. When he retired on July 1, 1993, the "George W. Sledge Excellence in Scholarship" fund was established. This fund annually supports students furthering their agricultural and life sciences education in settings outside of the classroom.

George was an active and engaged member of his community and the First Baptist Church. He and his wife, Dorothy, were married on October. 7, 1950. George passed away in October of 1999. They have two married sons, George Jr. and Jeffrey, and three grandsons. As stated by his wife, George loved life and those around him.